

appreciation by the International Workshop on *Heliothis* Management. Following its presentation by Dr J.C. Davies it was announced that all participants would be given two days to digest and discuss the contents before being asked to respond to the following referendum:

I support the retention of the established nomenclature for *H. armigera*, *H. peltigera*, *H. punctigera*, etc.

I support the suggested change in nomenclature to *H. armiger*, *H. peltiger*, *H. punctiger*, etc.

'Of 47 replies received, 45 were in favour of retaining *H. armigera*, etc.

'As this workshop was attended by many of the world's most experienced and active research specialists concentrating upon *Heliothis*, I think that there is little doubt about the preference for retention of the established nomenclature among the people who really matter. I hope that you will continue to press the Commission for the retention of the established names.'

SIMULIUM AMAZONICUM GOELDI, 1905 (DIPTERA): SUPPORTING COMMENT FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF SYNTYPES AND DESIGNATION OF A NEOTYPE. Z.N.(S.) 2364.

(see Bull. zool. Nom. vol. 39, pp. 67-70)

By R.W. Crosskey (*British Museum (Natural History), London*)

In my view the Commission should in general react warily to requests for the suppression of extant primary types of species-group taxa — lest requests for original types to be suppressed in favour of neotypes should become the fashion whenever the original primary type for a name fails to show the ideal taxonomic characters or is inconvenient for some other reason.

That said, it is also my view that the Commission should not hesitate to exercise its powers to suppress the use of existing primary types, and to designate neotypes on application from specialists, whenever this can resolve nomenclatural problems concerning animals of direct and demonstrable importance to man, e.g. parasites, disease vectors, destructive pests.

Accordingly I fully endorse Dr Shelley's request for the suppression of the extant syntypes of *Simulium amazonicum* Goeldi and for designation by the Commission of the specimen that he recommends as neotype (his paragraph 9(1)(b)).

The *Simulium amazonicum* group of blackflies (SIMULIIDAE) is now known to contain several species that are actual or potential vectors of human filariases in South America. It is currently under intensive taxonomic study to determine accurately which species are involved in disease epidemiology, and which are therefore potential targets for vector control. The group is one of unusual taxonomic difficulty, intrinsically because of the close resemblances between species and extrinsically because of sampling problems for the preimaginal stages. Only morphotaxonomic characters are as yet available for species discrimination. *Simulium amazonicum* is the nomenclatural pivot of the group, but the name has been haphazardly applied (actually in almost all cases misapplied) to several different species that bite man in the Amazon basin and circumjacent areas.

The almost inextricably confused history of the name has been unravelled by Dr Shelley, who has recently also provided a comprehensive redescription of

Simulium amazonicum in Shelley *et al.*, 1982. This redescription is based upon material of larvae, pupae and reared adult flies collected personally by Dr Shelley at the original type locality. The new material, because it contains pristine flies from pupae of known morphotype, allows *S. amazonicum* to be characterized and properly understood in a way not previously possible. Other workers, including recent workers, had not seen material from the type locality and had used the name *amazonicum* uncritically, thereby perpetuating a situation in which the name was being variously misapplied to several species (including carriers of filarial worms). The existing type material of *S. amazonicum* being now almost worthless, because of discoloration after nearly 80 years in alcohol storage, it would clearly be sensible to set it aside formally and establish a new type specimen from the original type locality that is associated with the taxonomically important pupal exuvium — as Dr Shelley suggests.

A decision by the Commission in favour of Dr Shelley's request would now serve to stabilize nomenclature by providing a usable name-bearer specimen for *Simulium amazonicum* against which the conspecificity or otherwise of *S. amazonicum* group specimens can be judged. It would underpin the redescription that has recently been published with the object of establishing the true specific identity (Shelley *et al.*, 1982). The paper of Shelley *et al.* (*op. cit.*, p.8) refers to the then pending application to the Commission for neotype designation.

REFERENCE

- SHELLEY, A.J., PINGER, R.R. & MORAES, M.A.P. 1982. The taxonomy, biology and medical importance of *Simulium amazonicum* Goeldi (Diptera: Simuliidae), with a review of related species. *Bull. Br. Mus. nat. Hist. (Ent.)* vol. 44, pp. 1-29.

COMMENT ON THE PROPOSED CONSERVATION OF *BUPRESTIS* *NANA* PAYKULL, 1799. Z.N.(S.) 2346 (see vol. 39, pp. 59-60)

By Hans Silfverberg (Zoological Museum, Helsinki University, Finland)

I wish to express my support for Dr Mroczkowski's request for the preservation of the name *Trachys nana* (Paykull). The suppression of unused senior homonyms is, it seems, the only method by which the Code gives a chance to preserve at least some well known specific names that are junior objective synonyms. Whenever the threatened name is considered sufficiently important, and the senior homonym is an unused synonym, the use of this method should be recommended.